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their being in search of a place to hibernate. This suggestion was confirmed about December 12, 1920, when the junior author found several specimens hibernating under water in abandoned muskrat holes in the side of a little stream near Defreestville, Rensselaer county. Of the specimens then found, two were saved and brought to the State Museum and the others returned to the stream.

On January 15, 1921, the writers, accompanied by Mr. Lee W. Crittenden of Albany, visited the stream where the specimens had been found in December.

The equipment needed for turtle hunting in winter is simple,—an axe, a bath towel, a Farm Bureau Manager with a Ford Car and a strong constitution being the chief requisites. With the axe the ice was cut from the edge of the stream to permit exploration of the muskrat holes and shallow, water excavated cavities underneath the bank. Stout sticks were used for prodding until something hard was encountered; investigations were then continued by lying prone on the bank and trusting the arm to the shoulder, in the icy water. The bath towel functioned after each bit of exploration.

Several rods of bank in the vicinity of the spot where the turtles had been found in December was searched without results; but upstream, in the mud of the stream bottom and at a depth of about eighteen inches below the surface of the water a large specimen was found by sounding with a stick and was recovered by hand. The turtle, perfectly dormant in the water, showed some signs of life soon after being taken out and a few minutes in a warm room restored it to normal activity.

SHERMAN C. BISHOP,  
W. J. SCHOONMACHER,  
*Albany, New York.*

## A SNAKE NEW TO CALIFORNIA

On March 25, 1921, in the wash from Tahquitz Creek, near Palm Springs, Riverside County, Cali-

fornia, an overturned rock disclosed a small snake lying in a slight depression in the sand. From its coloration a glance would suggest a baby rattler, pinkish white with brown spots along the back, but its peculiar leaflike rostral plate indicates it to be *Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*. In the essential points it checks with the description given by Cope (Report of National Museum, 1898, p. 823). The scales are smooth; anal is entire; urosteges are divided; rostral apex just touches the suture of the prefrontals; and suboculars are present. Measurements, inexact because taken from live specimen, are seven inches for total length and five-eighths for tail. The ground color is buff above and white below with a pinkish cast due to blood showing through the translucent skin. On the back from head to tail are forty-six spots of brown and on the sides a row of smaller brown spots in more or less double rows alternating with the dorsal blotches. Cope gives about thirty-two dorsal spots. On the head a broad brown band runs from the angles of the mouth through eye to the prefrontals. On each parietal is a rounded brown spot. The pupil of the eye is elliptical and the eye is large.

This is the first specimen to be recorded from California. Two have been recorded from Lower California (Cope, loc. cit.) and one from Yuma, Arizona (Ditmars: Reptile Book, p. 293).

The snake in captivity spends most of the time hidden in the sand. When active above ground it frequently runs out its long white forked tongue.

SARAH R. ATSATT,  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

## HOMING AND OTHER HABITS OF THE BULL-FROG

While at Stag Lake, New Jersey, in October, 1920, I was told by my host, Mr. Justus von Lengerke, of some interesting observations he and members of his family had made upon a bull-frog at that place. The frog was first observed near shore and